



US-Berlin agreement on WW II memorials

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WASHINGTON - The United States and Germany agreed this week to guarantee the preservation of memorials and cultural sites dedicated to victims of World War II.

In a joint declaration signed at the White House, the two countries also reaffirmed their determination to prevent all forms of prejudice and discrimination against ethnic and religious groups.

The memorials, including Jewish burial sites, commemorate the victims of genocide, and are reminders of the crimes of the Nazis, said German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger.

"We want to ensure that future generations understand and accept their responsibility to ensure such atrocities can never happen again," Ischinger said after signing the document.

Warren L. Miller, chairman of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, signed the document for the US side.

"The German and American governments reaffirm their interest in the protection and preservation of Jewish burial sites and sites associated with the murder of Jewish people," Miller said.

The United States has signed 12 similar bilateral agreements with central and eastern European countries.

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